

Metropolitan Emergency Communications Council Summary of June 10, 2017 Meeting

Present at the June 10, 2017 meeting were:

Name	Call Sign	Organization
Matt May (President)	KC4WCG	Wyandotte County RACES
Carolyn Wells (Secretary)	N0CJ	KCHEART
Brian Short (Vice President)	KCOBS	Johnson County ARES
Mike Bellinger (Member at Large)	KOUAA	Jackson County ARES
Jeff Libby	KA0OTL	Northland ARES
Dennis Carpenter	KA0SXY	Northland ARES
Larry Eker	WA0YQM	Wyandotte County RACES
John Eberenz	N0RES	Blue Springs ARC
Rick Smith	K0KEX	Northland ARES
Denise Elosh	KE0ECQ	Cass County ARES
Deb Kaiser	W0DLK	Northland ARES
Keith Kaiser	W0TJT	Northland ARES
Steve Hoeger	KC0YSY	KCHEART
Charlie Hall	WB7E	Northland ARES
Michael O'Neal	KC0YSO	Platte County Sheriff
Carl Harper	KE0HWJ	Ray County EM
Joe Krout	W0PWJ	Wyandotte County RACES

Thanks to the Platte County Resource Center and Deputy Mike O'Neal for the use of their facility.

Matt May called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and introductions were done.

The group reviewed the meeting minutes from April 15, 2017. They were unanimously approved.

Review of the MECC Goals 2017

Active:

1. Development of a list of capabilities for each MECC member organization. – Jeff Libby presented his recommendations for the capabilities list. The idea is to keep it simple and focus on broad capabilities.
2. Seminar for HAMs on emergency management topics. This will include how amateur radio fits into response/recovery in disasters based on the regional THIRA (Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment). – Matt and Mike O'Neal will work with Herb Fiddick on this.
3. Presentation to MEMC on Amateur Radio Capabilities
 - a. Someone is needed to do the formal presentation. Herb Fiddick has agreed to do this.
 - b. Someone is needed to coordinate the hands-on demonstration on VHF/UHF Voice (maybe highlighting linking), APRS, PSK (local and DX), ATV (drones), etc. No one stepped up to do this, so Matt and Brian will reach out to someone to help with this.
 - c. This will probably be done at the December 14, 2017 MEMC meeting.
4. Develop SOP/guideline for best practices when sending information digitally, voice, etc. into a regional communications plan. Brian will head up this effort. He is working on an outline at this time.

Monitoring:

1. Development of a regional communications plan. – This has been renamed to the regional frequency matrix. It is now in a google spreadsheet so it can be updated by the members.
2. Development of a secondary and tertiary list of MECC membership organization contacts. – Steve Hoeger will maintain this list. The next step is to send it out to the MEMC for updates.
3. Play a part in credentialing and resource typing system for communications volunteers. – Regionally, the MEMC now has this responsibility and Matt and Will Akin co-chair this subcommittee. There is a training session for the badging system on July 13th and 17th at MARC.
4. WebEOC partnership use arrangements and training. – The new update has been installed for integration with the state of MO; the WebEOC Committee has submitted a scope of work to Intermedix to finish the project. There are several boards applicable to HAMs. These are the Position Log, the Significant Weather Board, and the Amateur Radio Board group (sheltering, PODs, weather spotting). HAMs need to work with their local EM to gain access. Matt will send the applicable fields for the Significant Weather Board to Dennis to see if a form within FLDigi can be built.
5. Education of new HAMs. – Ongoing.
6. Enhancements of relationships between MECC, ARES, and RACES groups with emergency management, extending to the regional level. – Ongoing
7. Continue to develop a relationship with the Boy Scouts of America-Heart of America Council. – The group would like to keep this monitoring this goal.

Education

Technician Classes 2017:

- July 22 & 29, 2017 – NWS Training Center
- October 14 & 21, 2017 – Ararat Shrine

HAM 101 Class

- Next class is scheduled for July 15 at the Warrensburg Hamfest.

EMCOMM 101 Class

- Herb stated there is a video on You Tube for the EmComm 101 Class he taught. The link is <http://youtu.be/opbnZYa1r9o>. He also did a Public Service Events 101 video with Brian Short and that link is <http://youtu.be/Wetp0sKAwy8>.

FEMA Classes:

Online at <https://training.fema.gov/is/nims.aspx>

Digital Nets:

- On Going Digital Nets:
 1. Digital Net on the 146.97 repeater Wednesday nights at 2030.

NIMS, EMCOMM, Professional Development Series (PDS) –

The PDS is the backbone of the higher levels of the amateur radio operator resource typing classifications. The two links below will give you access to all the classes you need. NIMS is currently undergoing some changes, but they have not been published.

<http://training.fema.gov/IS/>
www.arrl.org/courses-training

AuxComm Class

- The Class is scheduled for September 9-10, 2017 In Butler County, KS. This class should be in KSTRAIN to sign up sometime in the future. If you are a KS resident and more than 50 miles from the site the state will pay for your lodging. MO residents can sign up, but no lodging will be paid.

REPORTS

MEMC Report

Carolyn gave the report from the June 8, 2017 meeting:

- There was a presentation/overview of Hazard Mitigation planning by Cary Gerst and Mike O'Neal.
- There was a discussion on preparedness activities related to the solar eclipse in August. There are handouts that were prepared by the EM in Buchanan County that will be forwarded to the MEMC.
- It was reported by Jeff Welshans (KDEM) that the TAG abolished the charter for the IMT's and any deployments will only be done directly from KDEM.
- The next meeting is August 10, 2017 at MARC at 1300 in the Boardroom.

KCHEART

- Monthly Net – The last net that was done June 5. The link radio has been replaced and the quality of the audio to Warrensburg has greatly improved. Unfortunately, the radio is not receiving the signal back from Warrensburg. Matt will work on this.
- We are planning on showing one of the radio kits at the next hospital committee meeting.
- We have added a noon net to try and get more of the hospital-based operators to participate. So far we have had light participation.

Exercises

- MECC SET 2017 – We have had 2 planning meetings so far. The scenario this year will be a wildland fire based on the March 2017 wildland fires in KS.
- Jeff Libby stated FSQ MO did a communications exercise with SEMA on April 22, 2017 at 0900 to test HF capabilities with Jefferson City. They sent 213 forms as digital traffic. They were on 80 meters (Frequency 3598 MHz) and 40 meters (Frequency 7073 MHz).

Regional PIO

- No report.
- Please send group activities to Jim at n0aji@aol.com and he will be sure it is sent to the media. He sent a template to Matt who posted it on the Yahoo site.

Membership Secretary

- No further information.

Boy Scouts

- The Venture Crew is now officially Crew 2273 with the email of kccrew@gmail.com. There are 7 members who are all HAMs. They have been very active in bike rides and walks so far this spring. They are looking for more members, anyone ages 14-21 who has completed 8th grade is welcome. They meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

- The Jamboree on the Air will be October 21-22, 2017 on the scout frequencies.

Treasurer's Report

- We still have \$8.51.

Mo-Kan Regional Council

- They have a net on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1930 on the MO Conference Server on Echolink Node: 452514.
- They also talked about developing a call down list for the region.
- Their website is <http://mokancouncil.org>

OLD BUSINESS

1. Workgroup for digital operations – Jeff Libby had questions as to what we are looking for from this workgroup. After some discussion, the information is general information about what the HAMs might bring to the EOCs for functional capabilities and what equipment they have in place to receive digital communications. Several members of the MECC volunteered to help Jeff with this workgroup.
2. MEMC presentation and demonstration – As already discussed, this will put together by Matt and Herb and presented by Herb.
3. Regional Qualifications Review Committee – Richard Fretwell is chairing this group and the first meeting is July 8, 2017 at 1000 at the American Red Cross KC Chapter. The members are Bill Gery, Herb Fiddick, Jeff Libby, Rick Smith, Richard Fretwell, Forrest Creason, Ed Menard, Joe Krout, and Merritt Markussen.

NEW BUSINESS

- There was discussion regarding the August 21, 2017 solar eclipse event. It is estimated there will be a movement of around 250,000 people into Missouri. Mike Thayer with SEMA will have the FSQ Call net up and active during that event. There will also be an event in WebEOC for Missouri. There may be a need for HAM support in key locations. Talk with your Emergency Manager and see if they might need help, especially in those locations that are directly in the path and expecting large crowds.
- Mike O'Neal stated that BAM (Bikers Across Missouri) starts June 11, 2017 in Platte County. They are not asking for any support, this is an FYI.
- Mike Bellinger stated the KCVOAD meeting is this Wednesday, June 14 at the American Red Cross at 1330.
- DMR Mode – There was a discussion about DMR. Chuck Kralely has put together a talk group for Emergency Management that probably needs to get built into the Comm Plan at some point. Dennis Carpenter stated Northland ARES has been asked by the Backyard Repeater Group to perform testing on this mode. He will bring back to the MECC the results of that testing that will help inform further conversation on incorporating this mode into regional communications.
- Field Day Operations
 - Platte ARC – At NRAD, set up start at 1630 on Friday, testing at 0930 Saturday, dinner at 1730.
 - Blue Springs ARC – Set up at St. Mary's Hospital starting at 0800.

- JCARES – HOA Radio Club with be set up at Shoal Creek Village and will be using the KCMO Comm Trailer
- Wyandotte County RACES – Will be at Wyandotte County Park at Shelter House F and will be using their communications trailers.
- Jayhawk Radio Club – Also at Wyandotte County Park, but at Shelter House A.
- Santa Fe Trail Club – Set up at Ensor
- Southside Radio Club – Will be set up at Belton Fire Station #2 with some very good food!
- Clay County ARC – Will be set up at Frosty’s house starting around 1030 on Saturday.

Web Sites

This is the current list of web sites that may be of interest:

1. kcmecc.org
2. www.hamclass.org
3. <https://ks.train.org>
4. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MECC_KC/
5. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kcheart/>
6. LarrysList@list.k0jpr.net
7. <http://list.k0jpr.net/mailman/listinfo/larryslist>
8. www.kcHamRadio.com
9. www.marc.org/emergency

- **Next Meeting: August 12, 2017 – Eastern Jackson County EOC**

Upcoming Meetings:

- October 8, 2016 – Red Cross (Richard Fretwell confirmed). It will also be the SET AAR.
- December 10, 2016 – Johnson County EOC (Matt confirmed with Terry Kegin)

Action Items:

1. Jeff Libby will get the digital operations workgroup together.
2. Herb Fiddick will work on the presentation for the MEMC group.
3. Matt and Brian will talk with someone to coordinate the hands-on demonstration for the MEMC meeting.
4. Richard Fretwell will chair the meeting for the Regional Qualifications Review Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Carolyn Wells, NOCJ, Secretary